

### REMARKS

Applicants note that the Examiner indicated an objection to the specification in the Office Action Summary. However, Applicants were unable to locate a specific objection to the specification in the Detailed Action. Applicants request that the Examiner provide a detailed explanation of the objection to the specification so that Applicants may have an opportunity to correct or address the perceived deficiencies in the specification, if such deficiencies exist.

Applicants affirm the provisional election to prosecute claims 1-24. Thus, claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Muller, et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,740). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Muller describes a technique for generating a globally unique identifier (ID) and exporting the globally unique identifier to one or more compute nodes via an interconnect fabric. Muller states that a message including a signature that securely identifies a compute node may be sent before the globally unique identifier is transmitted. The globally unique identifier may be transmitted to the compute node if the signature is authenticated, but if the signature is not authenticated, the globally unique identifier is not transmitted to the compute node. See Muller, col. 41, ll. 41-62 and Figure 14. However, Muller is completely silent with regard to securing the globally unique identifier after it has been transmitted to the compute node. Thus, Muller fails to teach or suggest establishing a secret between two or more devices and securing the secret in each of the two or more devices, as set forth in independent claims 1, 9, and 17.

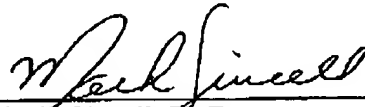
For at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by Muller and request that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/28/05



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